

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 119
By Yokley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lemuel W. "Tige"
Hooper of Newport.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Lemuel W. "Tige" Hooper; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hooper was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Lemuel W. "Tige" Hooper was the son of two-term Governor Ben W. Hooper (1910-1914) and the former Anna Jones; he was further blessed with five brothers and sisters: Ben Jones Hooper, Randolph Hooper, Anna Bell Phillips, Newell Hurd, and Janella Carpenter; and

WHEREAS, he received the nickname, "Tige," from his older brother, Randolph, who, upon overhearing a discussion about what to name the baby Lemuel, insisted upon the name Bull Tige, after the family's pet bulldog; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hooper spent his first four years in the Nashville Governor's mansion, and thereafter moved to Chicago so that the Governor could serve the National Railroad Labor Relations Board, to which President Warren G. Harding had appointed him; and

WHEREAS, "Tige" Hooper attended Newport Grammar School and Cocke County High School, from which he graduated second in his class; and

WHEREAS, after operating the apple orchard that he purchased with his cousin, James Stokely, Mr. Hooper served with acumen and alacrity as a supervisor at the local Stokely Brothers cannery; he earned the respect of his peers for the exemplary quality of his work and was known for being willing and able to work alongside any employee at the plant; and

WHEREAS, following his nearly thirty years of service to Stokely Brothers, Mr. Hooper retired in 1973 at the age of 62, though he continued to work as much as ever; and

WHEREAS, during his much-deserved retirement, "Tige" Hooper worked in the orchard during the day and picked apples at night when possible; he also took up wood working, logging, and lumber mill work, eventually building the house that was later occupied for many years by his son; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Mr. Hooper founded the Carson Springs Water District, which was the only state-approved water then in Cocke County; the District consisted of a spring, a reservoir, two wells, and water lines that served approximately 115 residents and the Edgemont School; and

WHEREAS, "Tige" Hooper was always respected as a most industrious worker, and as a most conscientious and honorable man; he was admired for his compassion and his devotion to his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, though he was the son of a former Governor and the father of a sitting Circuit Court Judge and former State Senator, "Tige" Hooper was never interested in public life and was extremely shy; he dedicated his life to the education of his children, and was marked by quiet tenacity and the toughness of a lifelong outdoorsman who preferred the solitude of the forest or the company of his family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hooper was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church, and he considered the Church community a part of his family; and

WHEREAS, "Tige" Hooper was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of Esther, his wife of nearly sixty years, with whom he enjoyed leisurely strolls in the woods to select plants for their garden; he was further blessed by a son, Cocke County Circuit Judge, Ben Hooper II, and a daughter, retired school teacher, Dorothy Jo Ellison; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hooper will always be remembered as a true friend to those people who count themselves lucky to have known him; and

WHEREAS, "Tige" Hooper leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Lemuel W. "Tige" Hooper, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Hooper.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.